

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2307 / S.1442

Title: An Act authorizing local control of waste collection hours of operation

Sponsor: Rep. Jay Livingstone, Sen. Lydia Edwards

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Prior History: H.2078 / S.1292 (2023-2024) placed into study order.
S.1061 (2015) contained text of Section 2 (below)
H.4220 referred to Public Health; placed in study order.

Current Law: Section 31A of MGL Chapter 111 governs permitting for the removal and transportation of garbage. Companies or persons must obtain such permits from the local board of health. The law states that no rules or regulations shall restrict the hours of the day when garbage, offal or other offensive substances may be collected in areas zoned for business, commercial or industrial use.

A person may, without a permit, transport such substances through a city or town where they were not collected, if they first register with the local board of health, following the rules and regulations established by said board. A city or town may recommend to the department of highways alternate routes for transporting the garbage.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends Section 31A by authorizing local boards of health to restrict the hours in which business, residential or commercial garbage may be collected in areas that are zoned for residential or commercial use.

Section 2 deletes language that currently prohibits towns from restricting the hours when garbage, etc. may be collected in areas zoned for business or commercial use. It retains the current prohibition against restricting hours for collection in industrial areas.

Note: H.2307 varies slightly from S.1442 in that there is additional punctuation at the end of section 1, however the intent and effect of the legislation appears to be the same.